HB 830 Proposed Senate Amendment

THE MONTANA AUTOMATED EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION AND MESSAGING SYSTEM FOR INTER- & INTRA- AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Background and Frequently Asked Questions

THE MONTANA AUTOMATED EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION AND MESSAGING SYSTEM FOR INTER AND INTRA AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS, proposed as an amendment to HB 830, is necessary to ensure that **Continuity of Government** -- *as required* under MCA Title 10, Chapter 3, Parts 1 thru 4 -- can be put into practice in compliance with the communications system established in 10-3-106.

The proposed system also complies with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) pursuant to Homeland Security Presidential Directive Five, and Montana's Executive Order 17-04 on management of domestic incidents and emergency services.

The proposed system would deliver critical communications capabilities to all state agencies and over 13,000 government workers ensuring;

- **Continuity of Government**
- **Continuity of Operations**
- **Disaster Response/Incident Management**
- **Disaster Recovery**

This proposed system delivers the communication tools necessary for <u>state agencies and authorized individuals to provide critical support</u> in any scenario where vital government operations are interrupted, such as a state network or computer failure, loss of agency building to fire, or <u>evacuation threats</u>. Such a system is essential for required interagency communications during these incidents and for the recovery period following such incidents.

These same capabilities serve the state during large emergency events such as floods, wildfires, chemical spills, and other natural and man-made disasters that require extensive interagency communications. These events require extensive communication with secondary emergency response and support personnel across numerous agencies.

This amendment does not duplicate or displace the 9-1-1 system, nor does it diminish the need for Public Safety Radio interoperability. These important components of public safety have been previously addressed and funded. However, it should be noted that those two systems have neither the <u>statutory authority</u> nor the <u>technical capability</u> to provide the communications that are absolutely essential to Continuity of Government and Continuity of Operations during and after large scale emergencies.

This proposed amendment enables our state government to respond better, faster, and more effectively on behalf of our citizens during the most critical times of need, and afterwards during the longer and essential time of recovery.

Based on the initial assessment and requirements, $1.85 million for the biennium is an appropriate and necessary allocation to provide mission critical alert and notification capability for the State of Montana. The proposed appropriation amount provides the resources necessary to meet the needs of all 26 Montana state agencies, 8 tribal entities and over 13,000 state workers. This is the minimum amount sufficient to meet the State and Federal requirements cited in the Bill and to provide the most cost effective capability to support true Continuity of Government and emergency response capabilities.

Contrast of Critical Communication Systems

9-1-1 Systems

Citizens
Report
Emergencies,

and

PSAPs
Message
Communities,

using
telephones

PSAP

NIMS Compliant
Government Agency Notification
System Requirements

NIMS* Compliant Systems

Large-scale Emergencies require on-going communication across and within:
- multiple agencies
- multiple jurisdictions
- multiple disciplines,

using multiple existing communication devices and data networks

* **National Incident Management System** compliance is necessary to receive federal funds.

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Critical Communications Systems

HB 830
FY 2008, 2009
Funding Request:
$ 16.33 million

HB 830
FY 2008, 2009
Funding Request:
$ 1.85 million

HB 830
FY 2008, 2009
Funding Request:
$ 4.00 million

Interoperable Public
Safety Radio

NIMS Compliant
Gov't. Communications

9-1-1 Telephony
Systems